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visiting every province of the country as a member of a commission appointed for that purpose; and he then assisted in drafting a bill which, because of parliamentary changes, did not come to a vote. In the light of this preparation, he takes up one by one the articles of the present law, and explains simply the various courses open and the practical reasons in the situation for and against each of them. Incidentally he thus gives interesting glimpses of the industrial and social conditions of the country. Matters falling outside the strict letter of the law, but affecting labor, are also explained, such as the prevailing form of contract between employers and workmen, the shop rules of representative factories, beneficial institutions, etc. A number of statistical tables are included. The author shows a most friendly interest in the welfare of the workers, and is a strong believer in this form of legislation. He looks upon this book merely as a preparatory work, and promises to complete it when he returns to Japan. Students of labor conditions and of his interesting country will doubtless be glad to see that promise fulfilled.

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*The Early History of English Poor Relief.* By E. M. LEONARD. Cambridge (at the University Press) and New York: The Macmillan Company, 1900. 8vo, pp. xviii + 397.

*A History of the English Poor Law, Vol. III* (from 1834 to the Present Time). Being a supplementary volume to *A History of the English Poor Law*, by SIR GEORGE NICHOLLS, K.C.B., Poor Law Commissioner and Secretary of the Poor Law Board. By THOMAS MACKAY. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1899. 8vo, pp. xv + 617.

THE appearance of these two books dealing with the English poor law within less than two years of the republication of Sir George Nicholls's monumental history, is notable. It is a substantial proof of widespread interest in this important social problem, for it records the faith of the cold publisher in the marketableness of volumes on a subject that has been deemed doleful and prosaic. Indeed, the books will be welcomed by many students of social problems.

The periods dealt with by the two books are widely sundered, the one volume dealing with the beginnings of poor law history, and the

other giving us the latest aspects of the long development. But these two periods are the ones most significant to the student, the questions "How did a social institution arise?" and "What is its value and tendency today?" arousing the deepest interest. The book on the earlier history covers the 130 years from 1514 to 1644, these exact limits, though somewhat arbitrarily selected, embracing the epoch of the beginnings. Three periods are distinguished, 1514-1569, 1569-1597, and 1597-1644, and under each of these divisions are described the measures of poor relief in the towns and the development of local administration, the discussions and statutes of parliament, and the influence of the Privy Council in furthering various projects of public relief. A contrast is drawn at the last between the early poor law history of France and Scotland on the one hand, and that of England on the other, and the political and social importance of the English system of relief is appraised in a most friendly spirit.

The work is excellent in the general outline adopted, in the clear and logical subdivisions of the chapters, and moreover, is a model of bookmaking in the typographical arrangement of chapter outlines, marginal paragraph titles, and in the exhaustive alphabetical index. The author has made a bountiful use of documentary authorities found in the municipal and state archives, and in the British Museum. The liberal and apparently well selected extracts in the appendix will delight the well-trained student. If there be any adverse criticism it will be found in the almost too painstaking character of the compilation of immediate authorities. Though essentially scholarly the narrative lacks the sweep and confidence of maturer scholarship. Following with watchful eyes the record of council orders and statutes, it fails to give enough of that setting of larger contemporary social and political life to put the history of this one social institution into vital relations with the life of the nation. Yet the work is of unusual merit, the student of general history and of economic history being sure to find here welcome additions to his knowledge of many phases of the period.

The other book covers the latest period, the sixty-four years from 1834 to 1898. Though a supplementary volume to the larger work of Nicholls, the new edition of which was reviewed in the *JOURNAL OF POLITICAL ECONOMY* in December 1898, p. 130, it overlaps somewhat that work which had been brought down by its author to the year 1853.

This is not to be regretted, for the later portion of Nicholls's work was not well organized, and Mr. Mackay has undoubtedly done wisely to give a connected account of the great poor law reform of 1834 and its results. The expressed object "is to set out the economic rather than the legal history of the subject." In part first are described the conditions leading to the reform, the preparation and passage of the bill, the effect on the pauper population, and the attitude of the public toward the reform. Then comes a break in the chronological narrative, a number of somewhat disconnected subjects such as settlement, vagrancy, relief measures in the cotton famine, being treated in part two. In part three the history is continued, mainly from 1865, the period from 1847 to 1865 receiving slight attention. "Dispauperization," the possibility of the entire abolition of the poor laws, is discussed at length in the last one hundred pages. Wide knowledge, strong convictions, vigorous thought, clearness of literary expression, mark the work throughout. As the fullest, ablest, and most connected account of the latest stages of development of this important subject it will be welcomed to every library where social history has its alcove.

Yet it may be permitted to express disappointment, after all, with the results of the author's difficult undertaking. These fall short of expectations and possibilities. Surely, further study might have hit upon a better general outline. The break in the continuity of the narrative adds much to the difficulties of the reader. The chapters in many cases seem to be almost planless groupings of materials. The confessed intention to avoid statistics in such a subject is hard to excuse. There is a lack of vividness in the presentation of the actual conditions, as for instance, the mode of life in, and the management of, the poorhouses; this makes it impossible for the average reader to get anything like a true picture of the concrete thing under discussion. Moreover, the method of treatment is frequently polemical rather than historical, "the object of these pages," as he says (p. 530), being "to establish" a certain "theory of pauperism." The essential soundness of the social philosophy does not justify the reiteration of it from the first to the last chapter of this "history." It gives to a work of many merits more of a pamphleteering than of a scholarly flavor.

The two books under review invite to comparisons, but only one will be made. The attitude of the one author is that of admiration for the poor law. He (or perhaps it is she, how is an American reader

to know ?) gets a favorable view in tracing the origin of all the early measures to the urgent need of reducing the suffering or allaying the discontent of the people. He believes it has continued to render the "struggle for existence less brutal to the whole of the laboring class," that it has reduced crime, and has made for political stability. The other author, studying the operation of the institution in the present, in a period of increasing wages and of growing intelligence, and viewing it through the preconceptions of his social philosophy, sees in it a baneful survival of outlived communal conditions. From an inductive study of its origin one has reached a favorable judgment; starting with a deductive conclusion and seeking facts to verify it, the other strongly condemns. The judicial reader may be able to harmonize in a measure, and justify both points of view, and at all events will find food for thought in a fuller comparison of these latest contributions to the history of an institution, the deeper social significance of which, we are beginning to see, has not yet been fathomed.

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*Compte rendu officiel du quatrième congrès de L'Alliance Co-opérative Internationale.* Londres: Alliance Co-opérative Internationale, 1900; 8vo, pp. 203.

THE International Co-operative Alliance, organized in 1886, held its fourth meeting during July 1900, at Paris. There were present voting representatives of a hundred societies, federations, and unions, from a dozen different countries. It may be noted that there were representatives from East India and Tunis, and that there were none from the United States.

The first day was largely given up to reports upon the condition of co-operation in the different countries. The information given is for the most part fresh, but is very generally lacking in completeness. It is to be regretted that this was not made the occasion for presenting with some fullness not only the progress made since the Delft meeting in 1897, but also the present conditions as to membership and operations. The one fact in every report made clear, is the substantial gains recently made in all countries. There is little divergence from characteristic national development to be noted. M. Gide points out, however, the recent rapid growth of consumers' societies in France, and attributes